

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association March 1998, Vol. 65, No. 3

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President's Message

Although I've read reports that El Nino might be cooling off a little soon, one sure can't tell it by the weather it's been generating over the last few weeks and even the last few days. Both East and West coasts have been getting hammered with mudslides and floods in the west, tornadoes in the southeast, and wind and rain in New England. I suspect we'll be seeing articles in QST and CQ in a few months about how hams have been helping the local authorities cope with weather related emergencies and disaster relief in those areas hardest hit. It's one of those traditions that puts amateur radio in the public spotlight. I wouldn't be surprised if much of the public believes that with the proliferation of cellular phones and the Internet that the emergency services provided by hams is going the way of the dinosaur. They are not thinking that many of these disasters come along with downed power lines and telephone lines as well as toppled cellular towers and overloaded circuits. Hams are going to be providing emergency services for quite sometime to come. Keep your batteries charged.

On another note, FARA is entering 'The Busy Period'. We're getting to that time of year where club activities start to pick up. Best way to stay informed is the FARA newsletter - The Framingham Circuit. Our newsletter editor, Robert, N1UVA does an outstanding job every month in keeping us informed of upcoming events. To stay informed, make sure your '98 dues are paid. Some of the FARA events to stay tuned for are the ARRL International DX Contest on March 7-8 which we'll be participating in from the club shack; License-In-A-Weekend on March 27, 28 and 29; Flea Market on April 5; FARA-Night-Out on May 2; and Field Day the last full weekend in June.

Thanks to Pete, KA1AXV, for working on the club's linear amplifier - rebuilt coil and new tubes and a little more tweaking to be ready for the upcoming ARRL contest. 73

Jim, W1EQW

Thursday, Mar. 5 This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

This month's meeting will feature Tom Kinahan, N1CPE. Tom is a Massachusetts State RACES Officer. He will talk about the APRS packet system.

Warming Up for Field Day

by Dave Hoaglin, K1HT

It's not yet spring, but a ham's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of ... Field Day! This year the Field Day weekend is June 27 and 28, and W1FY will be on the air from Gerard's Turkey Farm, our gracious hosts for the past three years.

If you've participated in the past, you know it takes a lot of teamwork to make this operating event a success: tents, stations, towers, antennas, generators, operating, exams, publicity, and food! There's plenty of work, everyone lends a hand, and we have fun. But it all takes preparation. We'll have our first planning meeting on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Club Shack. Please come and help put FARA Field Day 1998 on a solid footing.

Also, please mark the following Wednesdays on your calendar: March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20, June 3, and June 17. We'll meet at 7:30 to continue planning and to work on equipment and projects. We'll probably have a few work sessions on Saturday mornings as well.

Let's make this FARA's most successful Field Day!

ARRL International DX Contest

by Jim, W1EQW

Club President

FARA will be participating in the ARRL International DX Contest on March 7 and 8 from the club shack. We plan to get started at sunrise on Saturday March 7. (If

Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by phone, by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the Thursday, one week before the monthly meeting.

by phone

(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA
1 Cold Spring Brook Road
Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

n1uva@ultranet.com

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there is strong interest in starting Friday evening, 7:00pm, let W1EQW know and we'll try to get started then.) We plan to run all day Saturday and Saturday night as long as there is interest and band openings. If we shutdown Saturday night, we'll pick it back up at sunrise Sunday. Everyone is welcome regardless of their license class or operating ability. Non-licensed guests are always welcome. And remember, no one has ever starved at any of these contests. FARA - Food And Radio Association.

PacketCluster Committee Update: Donations Needed

by Charlie Ross, NC1N

The PacketCluster Committee has made substantial progress in preparing a budget and plan for building a node. We will be meeting in early March to finalize some of the major decisions.

The most-expensive item in the budget is the PacketCluster software itself. Apart from that, pledges of donations have been received for many of the hardware items.

At this time, we are looking for people willing to donate two TNCs. Both need to be KISS compatible. One needs to be capable of 9600 baud (or upgradable thereto), the other need only operate on standard 1200 baud. If you might be able to help in this or other areas, please contact Charlie, NC1N (nc1n@tiac.net), Jim, W1EQW, or Lee, KA1USL.

Stay tuned for more info in coming newsletters.

Rules for the FARA Scholarship

by Richard Cosma, KD1BF

Applications for FARA scholarships are now be accepted. The eligibility rules are as follows:

1. Must be a member of FARA.
2. Applications must be turned in or post marked by April 15, 1998.
3. Must be a license radio amateur.

4. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors.

For applications contact Richard Cosma KD1BF 508 877 8241.

Submitting to the Circuit

by Robert, N1UVA
Newsletter Editor

Many club members ask how to best submit material to the Circuit. Well, here are some guidelines which should help you, and make my life as Editor easier. You can also see this on the FARA website and it will be reprinted in the newsletter as space permits.

Electronic mail is the preferred format to submit with. However, if you do not have access to e-mail, your submission may be sent slow-mail neatly typed or written. You may also submit short bits via telephone. The contact information for these submission formats are as follows, and appear on the cover of every newsletter.

E-mail:	Postal Service:	Telephone:
n1uva@ultranet.com	Robert Hazz, N1UVA 1 Cold Spring Brook Road Hopkinton, MA 01748	508-435-2055

A general guide for electronic submission, which is the preferred and most common way to write for the Circuit follows:

- If your submission is longer than 2 paragraphs it is preferred that it be sent as an attached word processing file, (Word). This is the best way to retain your paragraph formatting and make my job easier.
- Don't use multiple text columns. I reformat the text anyway and your efforts will be lost.
- The first line should be the title of the article. Titles should not be set entirely in uppercase. Capitalize only the first letter of each word. For example: "Southern Club News".
- The next line should be the author followed by a comma and the callsign. If you would like your e-mail address included in the newsletter's heading, place it on the next line.
- The Circuit will also run your for sale items. Please include all information pertinent to your merchandise.
- If you would like to include pictures please attach them in your e-mail message. I cannot guarantee that your pictures will be included in the printed Circuit but they will be available on that month's Web version.
- QSL cards should be sent as an attachment to an e-mail message. In the message text include a short caption or story about why you feel the card should be in The Circuit.

Please remember that these are only guidelines, I am happy to print anything you may have for The Circuit

WebCircuit

by Robert, N1UVA
Newsletter Editor

Club Members have asked for a way to be notified to when The Circuit is available online. Send an e-mail to n1uva@ultranet.com and put "Webcircuit" in the subject line. You will then be sent a reply saying that you will be notified monthly. Expect your notification about one week before the monthly Club meeting. Eventually, if you prefer reading the Circuit online you will be able to save the Club money. However, if you still like your print edition, you will continue to be sent one.

The Hamfest

by Winona Poulton
Submitted by Richard Cosma, KD1BF

Don't forget the FARA Fleamarket on April 5 at Framingham High School! John KF4OZY's teenager accompanied a group of hams to a recent hamfest. It was her first such trip and she wrote a poem about it afterward. Does any of this experience seem familiar to you folks.

As I reluctantly shook the sleep from my eyes, I faced the reality that I had to rise. John was downstairs, fixing bagels for breakfast; in 3 hours we would be at the Richmond Frostfest.

It wasn't even close to the break of day, but Nick waited patiently in his driveway. While John and Nick gleefully talked of the fun ahead, I made the back seat into my three hour bed.

A speed bump woke me as we drove in the lot. Mary were already there, for it was boatanchors they sought. Grumbles were heard as we waited to get in, Nick, John, and I stood right behind Herman.

As we stepped from the dark into the light, Middle-aged men were the only things in sight. Nick and John took their first lap around, John trotted back and told me of a radio he found.

He stood me in front of the table so no one could see, that under a box of junk was an SX-73. I glared at the hams and said "Don't come near!". Under his breath one asked what a girl was doing here.

"Is that what I think it is?" Herman cried, As he made his way toward it, pushing me aside. It was the prize of the fest, one must admit. So for an hour and a half, there I did sit.

Of all the people, how could this lucky seller be late? Didn't anyone tell him all the good stuff is gone by eight? When he got there it seemed my Dad had the lucks, "What do you want?" John asked, "That'll be 45 bucks."

"Sure!" said John, in a big dash, He whipped out his wallet and dished out the cash. "Is he OK?" John asked in his head, Off in the distance, Herman was beet red.

John called Nick to tell him what he got, "KD4CPL, we hit the jackpot!" "The day is through" John said with a tear in his eye. Nick shook his head. "You're silly,

QSL Card

Submitted by Rich, N1YW0



"I didn't earn it, I just went and picked it up."

I was on the ice from Oct '84 to Feb '84 and "Wintered Over" for the 82-83 season as the Station Manager of Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. When the last airplane left, the first week of February to the first aircraft inbound, in November, it was the Ham operators, both in our crew and in the States, that provided the "Ham Patch", the only link with our families.

If you would like to share your favorite QSL card with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.

Next month's card will be brought to you by Paul King, N1VAM

Dad!" I said with a sigh.

The rest of the day ran like clockwork. Occasionally John glanced at the jealous hams with a smirk. Nick, too, got some really good stuff. But to match John's SX-73, that would be tough.

Through the fest Nick did roam, I held the fort, selling the wild resistor by the ohm. We decided it was time to say goodbye. So the Saab was loaded with Hallicrafter and Hi-Fi.

The SX-73 in hand, we got dirty looks. Nick said "Clearly, this is one for the books!" The trunk nearly touched the ground, but off we went. And on the

way home, at Wendy's we found refreshment.

Mary waved as we pulled in the drive. I was so tired after sleeping I was barely alive. There's no better profession, not even a banker. Than the satisfaction of chasing the elusive boatanchor.

FARA NIGHT OUT !!!

by Dick, K1KTK

Save the date. Saturday May 2, 1998, 7:00 PM at the Bella Costa Ristorante. Same price as last year and the year before - \$17 per person. More info in next month's newsletter.

FARA Horizons

Mar 5: Monthly Meeting
Mar 7-8: ARRL International DX Contest
Mar 23: Board Meeting
Mar 25: Fieldday Planning
Mar 27-29: License-In-A-Weekend